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NOTES ON A FEW BRITISH COLUMBIA MARINE SHELLS.

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The following notes do not refer necessarily to rare, or even uncommon species and are in some cases only a comparison of common species occurring at different localities, sometimes not very widely separated.

Victoria is on the south end of Vancouver Island, inside the Straits of Juan de Fuca; Maple Bay and Departure Bay lie on the East or inside coast of Vancouver Island, the former South of Departure Bay and distant about 30 miles; both are sheltered or more or less land-locked; Salt Spring Island lies along outside the entrance to Maple Bay, and in the channel outside this entrance the water is very deep.

Terebratella transversa Sowerby. This species is common on the underside of rocks at Maple Bay, and may be found not far below high water mark where the shore shelves steeply and the rocks are well piled up.

Pecten hastatus Sowerby and *Pecten rubidus* Hinds. These species occur together, and in the channels off Nanaimo and Departure Bay I have seen them brought up in the dredge by the paifful. Both are sometimes coated, even on both valves, with a native sponge, bright yellow in color when living, named *Myrtilis parasitica*, Lambe.

Himmites giganteus Gray. Very fine specimens may be taken among the rocks at Maple Bay at low tides, but the big fellows are hard to detach without breaking or chipping the lower valve. A nicely grown specimen makes a good ash-tray.

Axinaca septentrionalis Midd. Reported by the late Rev. G. W. Taylor as being not uncommon on the Northern and Western Coasts of Vancouver Island, but not observed by him at Victoria or Departure Bay, so that I was all the more surprised this summer, to pick up a specimen in good condition at Maple Bay lying on the beach near high water mark. Through the kindness of Mr. Taylor I possess a good set of the species from Northern waters.

Psammobia rubroradiata Nuttall. The late Rev. G. W. Taylor in his List of the Marine Mollusca of the Pacific Coast of Canada, refers to this as being a rare species, stating that he had not seen living specimens. At Maple Bay this appears to be one of the species occurring there in numbers, broken shells are in abundance, and quite good ones are often washed up, many still retaining the animal, and of quite a fair size. This shell seen lying in the water is rather a beauty, but in the cabinet a very ordinary shell, as the color seems largely to disappear.

Semele rubropicta Dall. Quite a rare species at Maple Bay, and while it might be captured by dredging, half a dozen specimens or odd valves represent the catch for almost as many seasons.

Volutella pyriformis Carpenter. This is a little beauty, and while Taylor refers to it as a common species, I have only been fortunate enough,—with the exception of a tiny juv. specimen at Maple Bay,—to find it once, and that was at Foul Bay, near Victoria; here under a stone in a cavity under a large boulder, I secured a small colony.

Purpura lima Martyn. (= *caudiculata* Duclos). This is the only *Purpura* that I have taken in any of our inside coast waters since leaving Victoria; there, *P. crispata*, Chemnitz, and *saxicola*, Val., occurred in perhaps equal numbers with *Lima*: this absence seems rather strange. The *P. lima* of Maple Bay is very common, a large shell, solidly built, heavy, and sometimes brightly colored and banded.

Cerostoma foliatum Martyn. I took only two specimens of *Cerostoma* all the time I lived in Victoria, and those at extreme low tide; at Maple Bay this is a fairly common species among the rocks between tides, and juv. specimens are quite abundant.

Eulima micans Carpenter. This species is usually only to be obtained in our Northern waters by dredging in from ten to forty fathoms, but I have met with it rarely at Maple Bay at extreme

low tide buried in a sponge on the underside of large flat rocks on which this sponge sometimes grows in masses.

Bitum filosum Gould. The species is abundant at Maple Bay on rocks at low tides among the sea weeds, and many of the living shells are white in colour.

Isapis obtusa Cpr. Since my notes on this species in the February Number of Vol. xxlv, a further search the following August in the same locality, showed the shell to be quite plentiful on its same host, *Tapes staminea* Conrad.

Natica clausa B. & S. and *Lunatia pallida* B. & S. A few small specimens, living and dead, fell to my bag on one of my few dredgings in Departure Bay.

Velutina laevigata Linn. At Maple Bay very occasional at extreme low tides among the rocks, but not, I believe, a rare species when dredging in from 10 to 30 fathoms.

Acmaea patina Esch. This and allied species are of course plentiful both at Victoria and on all our rocky coasts, but none of the shells found in our inside waters are of any size, miserable specimens when compared with those taken at Victoria, from which locality I have some beauties.

Acmaea mitra Esch. The same remarks apply to this species, except that at Maple Bay it is in addition quite a rare shell, and those taken have been very small and depauperate-looking, while in Departure Bay I have not yet met with it.

Fissuridea aspera Esch. This is one of our common species at Maple Bay between tides, and generous in size, like those I have from near Victoria, and certainly much more abundant than there.

Leptothyra bacula Carpenter. A rare species, I believe, in northern waters, and the only specimen that I have taken—except on Southern California beaches—was a small one out of a root of kelp washed up after a storm. This root was still attached to some very large barnacles, and was rather a “gold mine” for small species, as *Alvanias*, etc.

Margarita lirulata Carpenter. At Maple Bay by far our most abundant “top;” swarms in certain seaweeds on the rocks at extreme low tides, and stray specimens may even be taken on the under side of stones between tides, associated with small *Littorina*. As Taylor has pointed out, this is a very variable species in our waters.

Margarita helicina Fab. Reported not uncommon between tides around Victoria; not yet discovered at Maple Bay.

Solariella peramabilis Carpenter and *Solariella cidaris* Carpenter. I have a few nice examples from dredgings in or near Departure Bay, the latter though, only from channels outside the bay.

Note. While I have been able to do much more collecting at Maple Bay than at Departure Bay, dredging has as yet been attempted only at the latter locality.

"Errata." NAUTILUS, Vol. xxiv, page 114, line 10, read "tiny" instead of "fine."

SPHERIIDÆ, OLD AND NEW, IV.

BY V. STERKI.

Pisidium overi, n. sp.—Mussel rather small, oblique, with the anterior part somewhat longer, medium to well inflated; superior margin short, nearly straight, posterior subtruncate to rounded, inferior well curved; supero-anterior slope beginning with an angle, close to beaks, rather long, straight to slightly curved; anterior end situated well below the median line, rounded angular; beaks rather small, rounded; surface dullish to somewhat glossy, with very fine subregular striæ; shell thin, translucent, nearly colorless to pale corneous; hinge medium stout, plate narrow; cardinal teeth rather long, moderately curved to nearly straight, the right not, or little thicker in its posterior part, left anterior with its apex rounded to somewhat pointed in old specimens; ligament and resilium rather short and slight.

Long. 3.5, alt. 3, diam. 2.4 mm. (100 : 91 : 68).

Long. 3.3, alt. 2.7, diam. 2.1 mm. (100 : 82 : 64).

Hab. : Clear Lake, Deuel Co., S. Dakota, collected by Mr. W. H. Over, in several lots, in 1906 and 1908; types No. 5752 and corresponding with those in Mr. Over's collection, in whose honor the species was named (in 1906). Apparently the same *Pisidium* is from Cannon Lake, Rice Co., Minnesota, collected by Mr. L. E. Daniels in 1905 (No. 5595); the two specimens in the collection are somewhat larger and more inflated, with the beaks higher.

P. overi somewhat resembles *walkeri* St. in shape and appearance,